

REMARKS

Claims 3-8 and 18-24 are pending in the application. Independent claim 24 has been amended. Claims 19, 20, 21 and 22 depend from claim 24 and have been amended to comport with the amendments to claim 24. Dependent claim 18 depends from amended claim 24. Support for the claims as amended can be found, for example, in connection with the description of Figs. 1 and 2. No new matter has been added.

Telephonic Interview

Applicants' attorney thanks the Examiner for the courtesy extended in granting a telephonic interview on March 29, 2005. The Examiner indicated that independent claim 23 and claims depending from it were in condition for allowance. The Examiner also suggested an amendment to independent claim 24 that would place the application in condition for allowance. The amendment involves the incorporation of step (d) and step (f) from independent claim 23 into independent claim 24. Applicants' attorney indicated that a response would be prepared and filed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Independent claim 23 and dependent claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 have been acknowledged as containing allowable subject matter during the March 29, 2005 telephonic interview with the Examiner.

Applicant has amended independent claim 24 to substantially comply with Examiner's suggestion. Claims 19, 20, 21 and 22 depend from amended independent claim 24 and they have

been amended to comport with the amendments to claim 24. Dependent claim 18 depends from amended claim 24 and should be patentable at least for the same reasons that claim 24 is. No new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to claim 24 places the application in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



Brad Pedersen
Registration No. 32,432

Customer No. 24113
Patterson, Thuente, Skaar & Christensen, P.A.
4800 IDS Center
80 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2100
Telephone: (612) 349-5774